

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHOSCOMBE HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH MARCH 2016

Present: Jackie Withers (Chair), Andrew Wilding, Ian Cannock (Vice-Chair), Mary Upton, Grant Thomas, Lee Crowther-Russell, Brenda Whitchurch, Amy Craddock and Jean Fossaceco (Clerk).

Councillor Neil Butters and 4 members of the public were present.

Apologies: None

Declaration of Interests: None

Minutes of the last meeting: All in order with the addition of 'drains' to the report about White Hill pot holes.

| Matters Arising | Action | Timeline |
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| .Placemaking/Spatial Plan meetings – The March JSP meeting has been cancelled and re-scheduled for 16 th April | MU and JW | |
| Repairs to Wellow Lane – We have been informed by Andy Higginson that work will commence towards the end of May and there will be much done overnight. This will minimise disruption to traffic. As soon as we know a definite date we will be able to let people know. | JF | |
| White Hill Cottages – The application for this has been withdrawn. There were some points which were not on the website regarding the plans but, following Mr Wilding's discussions with Christine Moorfield, this has been resolved now. We await any further submissions in the hope that the boundary and fence issues can be resolved. | AW | |
| Pot – Holes – Mrs Fossaceco has been in touch with both Steve Simmons, our Highways Inspector and George Bottin, Senior Highways Engineer, regarding both the pot holes, in White Hill, St Julian's Road and Green St and the blocked drain along White Hill. Mr Bottin is away until next week. | JF | |
| Builders' Waste – Mr Wilding has visited the site of this along Single Hill and taken photographs. He has contacted B&NES waste who referred him to the environmental agency and he is waiting to hear when they will investigate. There is a substantial amount and it is not known who is responsible. | AW | |
| Signs for the waste bins re: do waste – Mr Lee-Crowther-Russell has printed and laminated some signs which are both colourful and fun but get the message across. It may be that some people are unaware they can put their dog waste in the litter bins. | LCR | |
| Litter picking – this was very successful with 29 people in attendance. Many thanks to Mrs Withers for organising this. 39 bags were collected. | | |

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Plan – Steering Committee – Presentations</p> <p>Mr Nick Glass and Mr Chris Upton have volunteered to join the Steering Committee for the Parish Plan. They sent through written presentations of their skills and what they thought they could bring to the committee, which the council have all read. They were welcomed on board. They will work alongside Mary Upton, from the council and will together arrange their first meeting. Previous members offered to do a handover. A number of volunteers who have offered to help with the delivery and collection of the questionnaires. Mr Thomas and Mr Crowther-Russell passed over some quotes for the printing of the questionnaire to Mrs Upton who will liase with the committee.</p> | <p>MU</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Planning</p> <p>We have received an application for an extension and improvements to the existing conservatory for Sunday Cottage at Paglynch Farm. Mr Wilding and Mrs Withers have visited the site and can see no objections and are of the opinion that the building will be enhanced by the alterations. Mrs Fossaceco will respond to planning.</p> | <p>JF</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Village Hall</p> <p>Mr Grant Thomas reported back and told the council how the village hall members had spring-cleaned the hall and made sure all was in order. We have received a quote for the grass cutting, which is attached. On breaking down costs this is much the same price as it has been for a number of years. The PC will now be responsible for half the cost of the cut of the playing field instead of a third as before. In order to compare costs, Mr Thomas will speak to Withers about companies he has contacted regarding grass maintenance at the cemetery. Time is of the essence as the first cut will be due in a couple of weeks. It was pointed out that it is not always about the cost of the service but reliability should be considered as well. Mr Grant Thomas will discuss the results of the quotes by email to the other councillors. There is a query with hirers' insurance liabilities as our insurance only covers the PC and hall liabilities. If a dance class, toddler group or any organisation hires the hall they should have their own insurance to cover them. This is made clear on the booking form. We do not, however, want to discourage hirers. More enquiries are taking place as Mrs Craddock would like to help start a toddler group and Jordan Russell, a street dance class.</p> | <p>GT</p> <p>AC</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Village Celebration</p> <p>This will take place on 11th and 12th June and there will be details in the newsletter. There will be an evening celebration until 1.00 a.m. and the village will be informed of this. It is a community event so we do not anticipate any objections. On the 10th September there will be a flower/ fruit and vegetable show.</p> | | |

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| <p style="text-align: center;">The School and Young People</p> <p>Mrs Craddock has contacted the Community Bus organisation about coming to Shoscombe but this is booked well ahead of time. We are on the waiting list though. She is also trying to help set up a new toddler group in the hall and a dance group (see above under village hall). Mrs Craddock has also looked into the possibility of asking an activity group based in Midsomer Norton to come along and set things up in the hall for our community to enjoy. It was suggested by Mr Wilding that if a community group took out some insurance, they may be able to get a group price for a variety of events and age groups if the same adults are organising these. The last census will be looked at to determine age groups and demographic. Mrs Aiken will check on the census data which she has.</p> | Diana Aiken | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Website</p> <p>Mrs Aiken has looked into this for us. She is updating content at the moment but would like to change the domain company to Weebly. The domain costs are lower than presently but we would incur a cost to forward emails. Some of the council felt we could access this forwarding service for nothing if we go with another company. Mrs Aiken is happy to look into this if council members can forward her some further details but would like it to be a straightforward system and not use coding so it can be passed onto someone else with the minimum of fuss.</p> | GT/LCR/ AW and DA | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Mrs Withers asked if everyone was happy with their role and reassured people they can ask for support if anyone becomes over burdened. Mrs Withers met with the community policeman and was warned there are Land Rovers being targeted for theft in rural areas. She has also met with some of our elderly in the parish.</p> | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk's Contract of Employment</p> <p>Mrs Whitchurch and Mrs Withers have been updating this and sent through some amendments via email. These amendments have been made and agreed with the exception of the holiday entitlement section. Mrs Fossaceco asked the council if she could spread her holidays throughout the year with some being taken in August, as there was no PC meeting in that month, and the further dates taken in consultation with the council. Mrs Fossaceco agreed that no holidays would be taken out of school holidays as this fits in best with all meetings' schedules. This was agreed and the contract will be drawn up and signed in the near future. The Job Description is also being updated and there is to be an appraisal once this is completed.</p> | JF/BW/JW | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Chairman's Invitation</p> <p>The council are invited by Ian Gilchrist to a reception on 20th April. Mrs Withers and Mrs Whitchurch are to attend. Any other councillors are welcome. They should contact Mrs Fossaceco who will respond by the due date of 15th April.</p> | JF | |
| Footpath between Braysdown and Shoscombe | | |

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| <p>Mr Crowther-Russell and Mrs Withers met with Sheila Petheridge, our footpaths officer, this week and were told the repairs to the above footpath would be prioritised to be undertaken in the 2017/18 financial year as long as no other repairs elsewhere scores higher when budgets are considered in January 2017. Some improvements have been made but it will still cost £19,000. She also mentioned a maintenance grant available from B&NES of £464.10 a year which covers strimming and surface clearing. This was generally felt to be a small amount for such a large undertaking. The cinder path is a highway up to the Old Rectory. Could we push B&NES to improve this? The footpath to the rear of St Julian's Farm has improved but there are still many badgers there who cause damage. Mrs Withers and Mr Crowther-Russell inspected this footpath and agreed it was passable when they checked it this week.</p> | <p>AW</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Fracking</p> <p>Mr Upton updated the council electronically about this (see attached). He attended the meeting and film in Frome and was made aware that some licences had been picked up in the area and that South West Energy is UK Methane under a new name. Fracking is having a devastating effect on climate change and data supposedly reassuring us is from unreliable sources.</p> | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Financial Matters</p> <p>Mrs Whitchurch is currently liaising with HMRC regarding any tax owed for the clerk's payroll. We know we owe £84.40 and £121.00 but once she can get online on receipt of her activation code, Mrs Whitchurch can establish exactly where we are with this. Unfortunately, the payroll company dealing with this have been misinformed by the tax office.</p> <p>We now know we have been granted the grant to help with the costs of inputting data for the Transparency Code. This is £730.00 and will be credited to our bank. We will then be able to purchase office equipment, which will be the property of the council rather than the clerk using her own equipment.</p> | <p>BW</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Training</p> <p>This will take place next Thursday at the Village hall at 7.00 p.m. Mrs Fossaceco will organise some tea, coffee and biscuits for the evening.</p> | <p>All councillors</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Western Power</p> <p>After Mrs Fossaceco's repeated attempts to make contact regarding the unwanted poles and metal in the village, Mrs Withers complained via email as there were still metal fixings on the Village Hall playing field. She was contacted very quickly and told the landowners may keep materials if they wish otherwise it will be collected. An item about this will be put into the next newsletter. Some are creosoted which could be a danger to wildlife.</p> | | |

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Other Business Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Craddock would like signage to warn drivers there could be walkers and cyclists at junctions between St Julian's Road/ Green St and Single Hill and St Julian's Road. Mrs Fossaceco has met with Steffan Chiffers in the last few months and discussed the issue with cyclists not stopping at the junction. He has cleared hedging and foliage. There is still an issue with drivers coming around corners too fast though and not allowing for walkers on roads with no footpath. Could we think about dealing with this in some way. *****Agenda Item Mr Aiken sent Grant Thomas a lottery funded newsletter which the council thought was useful. This could possibly go online onto the website. Mr Cannock has looked at the planning changes summary from ALCA and it looks as though this is dealing with much larger developments along the lines of the JSP or Placemaking Plan and is designed to make the process quicker. Mrs Upton was concerned over the 'right not to consult' section. We will clarify a few points with Deborah White next week, Mrs Fossaceco will let her know. | JF | |
| DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS | | |
| <p>31st March – Training for all councillors and the clerk 13th April – ALCA (normally Saltford) 16th April - JSP Meeting MSN 21st April – Parish Council 25th April – Bathavon Forum - date change 11th May – Parish Liaisons (Keynsham) 24th May – Parish Council AGM – date change 26th May - JSP 22nd June – Bathavon Forum 23rd June – Parish Council – Neil Butters can attend 14th July – Parish Council No meeting in August 14th September – ALCA (normally Saltford) 22nd September – Parish Council 5th October – Bathavon Forum 12th October – Parish Liaisons (Keynsham) 20th October – Parish Council – Neil Butters can attend 28th November – Bathavon Forum 24th November – Parish Council – Neil Butters can attend 15th December – Parish Council – Neil Butters can attend 18th January 2017 – ALCA (normally Saltford) 15th February – Parish Liaisons (Keynsham)</p> | | |